

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 25, 1999

LR 5

think I'm going to just withdraw the amendment right now.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is withdrawn. Further discussion on the Kristensen amendment to LR 5CA, Senator Don Pederson. On the Kristensen amendment. Senator Suttle on the Kristensen amendment.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. I used to volunteer and lobby for groups that never could afford to pay me, and as I talked to each one of you in this body as a lobbyist and as a volunteer lobbyist, I was listened to but mostly I was given the amount of time and respect that I was worth, which I was...I guess that would be nothing, because that's what I was receiving. So you...your worth is usually measured by what you earn in a year. When we have articles like we did in the Lincoln Journal yesterday by Fred Knapp, telling everyone that we spent most of our time goofing off, it doesn't help when we start talking about a salary. How he defines "goofing off", he didn't...he didn't enlighten us how he defines "goofing off". I found that a gratuitous article and not helpful in any way in helping out our already tarnished reputation with the people of Nebraska. I don't know whether we are not doing a good PR job or whether we are...are the reflection of opinions around the state, but I think we need to do a better job of selling ourselves and I think the Kristensen amendment, holding this and increasing our salary, would be very helpful. When people ask me how in the world do you do this job, I always say that I am a kept woman. My husband has a good job and, if he didn't, I wouldn't be able to do this job. I figured out if we all have 33,000 constituents that, before taxes, we are paid 36 cents a constituent a year to represent them, and that puts it a little bit more in perspective--36 cents a year per constituent. That's pretty dismal and do support the Kristensen amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Suttle. Senator Lynch, on the Kristensen amendment. Senator Lynch, on the Kristensen amendment. There's no need. Senator Kristensen, you're recognized to close.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the